

From: [Cox, Michael](#)
To: [Fleming, Sheila](#)
Subject: FW: OMB Peer Review Bulletin and EPA Science Inventory - Confirmation
Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2013 2:53:36 PM

Thanks.

Michael Cox
Office of Environmental Assessment
US EPA Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-1597
cox.michael@epa.gov

From: Grepo-Grove, Gina
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2013 2:23 PM
To: Kelly, Joyce; Cox, Michael
Subject: RE: OMB Peer Review Bulletin and EPA Science Inventory - Confirmation

Hi Joyce,
Mike's responses covered all the applicable criteria for ISI and are sufficient .Thanks Mike.
Ginna

From: Kelly, Joyce
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2013 12:32 PM
To: Cox, Michael
Cc: Grepo-Grove, Gina
Subject: RE: OMB Peer Review Bulletin and EPA Science Inventory - Confirmation

Hi Mike,
Your response to the criteria is very helpful. Ginna, please let me know if the response justifies/supports why we would not categorize the study as influential. Thanks.
Joyce

Joyce C. Kelly, Director
Office of Environmental Assessment
US EPA, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, OEA-095
Seattle, WA 98101
206 553-4029

From: Cox, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2013 8:48 AM
To: Kelly, Joyce
Cc: Grepo-Grove, Gina; Cox, Michael
Subject: RE: OMB Peer Review Bulletin and EPA Science Inventory - Confirmation

Joyce: The criteria to identify something as influential scientific information is included below with my response. Any questions stop by. Thanks.

- Establishes significant precedent, model, or methodology
 - While we used a variety of analytical methods (e.g., isotopic analysis, age dating, trace organics, microbial source tracking), these were established methods and no new

techniques or methods were developed for this project. Much of the analytical data were not useful in addressing the research question (sources of the high nitrate concentrations in water wells) due to non-detects or quality control issues at the laboratory. The nitrate data that provided the defensible basis for the enforcement action was collected by EPA in December 2012 and January 2013 from new monitoring wells installed by EPA.

- Annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more.
 - NA.
- Addresses significant controversial issues.
 - The presence of nitrate levels exceeding EPA's drinking standard in the underground source of drinking water in Yakima Valley is incontrovertible and was documented prior to EPA's study. There is controversy surrounding the source of the nitrate contamination, however EPA's September 2012 Report concluded that the high levels of nitrate in residential drinking water wells are likely coming from several sources. The objective of the study was focused on data collection and not policy issues.
- Focuses on significant emerging issues
 - This is not a new issue. Nitrate contamination in residential drinking water wells in Yakima Valley has long been known and is well documented.
- Has significant cross-Agency/interagency implications
 - Addressing the problem of nitrate contamination in drinking water has cross-agency implications but the report does not include any suggestions on how to move forward with addressing the issue.
- Involves a significant investment of Agency resources
 - We did invest a good portion of staff time and about \$100K.
- Considers an innovative approach for a previously defined problem/process/methodology.
 - The analytical methods have been used in other locations although the combination of the entire suite of methods used in Yakima may be unique. However, we exclusively relied on the nitrate in the subsequent enforcement action.
- Satisfies a statutory or other legal mandate for peer review
 - NA.

Michael Cox

Office of Environmental Assessment

US EPA Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900

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206-553-1597

cox.michael@epa.gov

From: Kelly, Joyce

Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2013 1:14 PM

To: Cox, Michael

Subject: FW: OMB Peer Review Bulletin and EPA Science Inventory - Confirmation

Hi Mike,

Please let me know your rationale for determining that the Yakima Nitrates Study is not influential scientific information. Thanks.

Joyce

Joyce C. Kelly, Director
Office of Environmental Assessment
US EPA, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, OEA-095
Seattle, WA 98101
206 553-4029

Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2013 12:48 PM

To: Kelly, Joyce

Cc: Williamson, Ann; Buza, Sharon

Subject: RE: OMB Peer Review Bulletin and EPA Science Inventory - Confirmation

Hi Joyce,

The only potential “influential scientific information” (ISI) that we may have is the Yakima Nitrates Study. However, Mike Cox think it is not and you gave me instructions to follow what Mike will recommend. So, the Yakima Nitrates is not entered as ISI in the Science Inventory database. To date, the entries in the Science Inventory database is current.

Ginna Grepo-Grove

Quality Assurance Manager

USEPA Region 10

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Seattle WA 98101

Phone Number: (206) 553-1632

grepo-grove.gina@epa.gov

From: Kelly, Joyce

Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2013 12:40 PM

To: Grepo-Grove, Gina

Cc: Williamson, Ann; Buza, Sharon

Subject: FW: OMB Peer Review Bulletin and EPA Science Inventory - Confirmation

Hi Ginna,

You may already know that it's Science Inventory time with confirmations and updates due January 31.

Joyce

Joyce C. Kelly, Director
Office of Environmental Assessment
US EPA, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, OEA-095
Seattle, WA 98101
206 553-4029

Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2013 11:30 AM

To: Kelly, Joyce

Subject: Fw: OMB Peer Review Bulletin and EPA Science Inventory - Confirmation

Michelle Pirzadeh

Deputy Regional Administrator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900

Seattle, Washington 98101

(206) 553-1234

From: Willis, Sharnett on behalf of Paulson, Glenn
Sent: Friday, December 06, 2013 9:15:15 AM
To: Assistant Administrators; Regional Administrators; Associate Administrators
Cc: Deputy Administrator; STPC Members
Subject: OMB Peer Review Bulletin and EPA Science Inventory - Confirmation

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: OMB Peer Review Bulletin and EPA Science Inventory

FROM: Glenn Paulson, Ph.D.

Science Advisor

TO: Assistant Administrators

Associate Administrators

Regional Administrators

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) *Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review* requires federal agencies to conduct peer review of influential scientific information before it is finalized for dissemination to the public and to post peer review agendas on their internet sites. OMB also requires that peer reviews conducted for influential scientific information during FY 2013 be reported to them.

I am requesting that your office confirm **by Friday January 31, 2014**, that the information in the EPA Science Inventory is accurate and up-to-date for projects your office has categorized as "influential scientific information" or "highly influential scientific assessments". In particular, information for peer reviews scheduled for or conducted in FY 2013 needs to be entered and confirmed, as this will become the basis for our report to OMB. The confirmation should be sent from your office's Peer Review Coordinator to Anand Mudambi of my staff at the following e-mail address: Mudambi.anand@epa.gov

ORD's Office of Science Information Management (OSIM) will provide training on the Science Inventory for your designated Peer Review Coordinator(s) and Science Inventory Coordinator(s) (list attached) on the following days - December 10 and 12, 2013 and January 14 and 16, 2014. Invitations have already been sent to the Coordinators requesting them to sign up for one of the sessions. They can contact Jacques Kapuscinski (ORD/OSIM) (kapuscinski.jacques@epa.gov) or Anand Mudambi (OSA) (Mudambi.anand@epa.gov) by e-mail for further information.

Some relevant excerpts from the Bulletin as well as a short description of the EPA Science Inventory are attached for your convenience.

Thank you for your assistance collecting and maintaining the information needed to be responsive to OMB.

Attachment: Signed Memorandum with:

List of Peer Review Coordinators and Science Inventory Coordinators

OMB Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review Excerpts and EPA Science Inventory description

cc: Deputy Administrator

Science and Technology Policy Council Members